

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 29, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, the Abstract and claims 1-11 are amended. No new matter is presented. Claims 1-11 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 5, 6 and 8-11. Claims 5, 6 and 8-11 were not rewritten in independent form as they depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively, which are allowable for the reasons submitted below.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract is objected to for minor informalities. Responsive to the objection, the Applicants have amended the Abstract and attach herewith a substitute Abstract.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants have amended the claims responsive to the rejection and respectfully submit that all claims are in compliance with U.S. patent practice. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,472,063, "Watanabe"). The Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 7 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Watanabe.

Claim 1 recites a power unit mounting assembling method for mounting a power unit on a car body frame, comprising, in part, a first step of assembling the power unit into the sub-frame in substantially the same position as in a mounted state on a car body frame by supporting the power unit via an on-board mount on the sub-frame; a second step of attaching the sub-frame on which the power unit is mounted at the first step to the car body frame; and a third step of supporting the power unit via the mount on the car body frame.

The Office Action asserts that the mounting bracket 11 in Watanabe is comparable to the claimed mount carrying a static load of the power unit, which is interposed between the power unit and the car body frame. See the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. The Office Action also asserts that the first mounting means 35 and second mounting means 36 of Watanabe are comparable to the on-board mount on the sub-frame. See page 4, lines 4 and 5 of the Office Action.

As recited in claim 1, the first step recites assembling the power unit and supporting the power unit via an on-board mount. Claim 1 further recites a third step of supporting the power unit via the mount on the car body frame. The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Watanabe does not disclose that the power unit 5 is

mounted on two different mounts, specifically, the mounting bracket 11 and the first and second mounting means 35 and 36, as required by claim 1.

In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Watanabe of the claimed first step and second step. In particular, Watanabe does not disclose assembling the power unit 5 into the sub-frame, and then attaching the sub-frame to a car body frame 9. In contrast, Watanabe discloses a suspension cross member 32 which is a rigid member of the front body. See column 8, lines 61-67 of Watanabe. Watanabe also discloses that the first mounting means 35 is formed by a mounting bracket 35a secured to the rear end portion of the power plant 5. Similarly, the second mounting means 36, includes a mounting bracket 36a secured to the front end portion of the power plant 5. See column 9, lines 23-42 of Watanabe. As such, the first and second mounting means 35, 36 are not mounted on any element that may arguably be comparable to the claimed sub-frame. In contrast, the first and second mounting means 35, 36 are mounted on the power plant 5 in Watanabe. Therefore, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of a first step of assembling the power unit into the sub-frame in substantially the same position as in the mounted state on the car body frame by supporting the power unit via an on-board mount on the sub-frame, as recited in claim 1.

Further, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Watanabe of attaching any element that may arguably be comparable to the claimed sub-frame on which a power unit is mounted to the car body frame. In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Watanabe does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention as recited in claim 1.

With respect to claim 7, the Applicants respectfully submit that Watanabe does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention.

Claim 7 recites, in part, an on-board mount disposed between the power unit 5 and the sub-frame and supported on the sub-frame in substantially the same position as in a mounted state on the car body frame.

The Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully submit that claim 7 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Watanabe.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants note that the Office Action did not identify a “sub-frame” in Watanabe. In addition, the Applicants respectfully submit that the first and second mounting means 35, 36 in Watanabe are not disposed between the power plant 5 and any element that may be arguably comparable to the claimed sub-frame. Specifically, Watanabe merely discloses that “[t]he power-plant 5 is supported by a rigid member of the front body, such as a suspension cross member 32, disposed behind the power-plant 5 through a first mounting means 35 at its rear end portion, by a center member 33, disposed under the power-plant 5...” See column 8, line 65 to column 9, line 3 of Watanabe. The Applicants respectfully submit that Watanabe is missing the claimed sub-frame and does not disclose or suggest the claimed arrangement of elements as recited in claim 7.

As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that Watanabe does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the invention as recited in claims 1 and 7.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every feature recited in a rejected claim must be disclosed by the applied art. Accordingly, Watanabe does not

anticipate claims 1 and 7, nor are claims 1 and 7 obvious in view of Watanabe. Therefore, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over Watanabe.

Conclusion

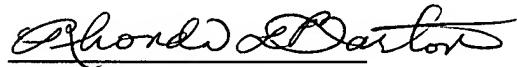
As discussed above, claims 5, 6 and 8-11 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 7 are also allowable. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. The Applicants further submit that each of these claims incorporate the patentable aspects thereof, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections and rejections, allowance of claims 1-11 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper,

may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 107355-00145.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Substitute Abstract
Information Disclosure Statement